w.e.f. 27-7-98 i.e. from the date of notification of the Scheme of revision of pay scales by the Ministry, the question of implementation of CAS w.e.f. 1-1-1996 has been considered in consultation with UGC and representatives of Teachers' Federations. The proposal in this behalf will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration and approval soon.

(b) and (c) The matter is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Finance and UGC. Appropriate action in this behalf will be taken in due course.

Vocational Training in Schools

4354. DR. RAJA RAMANNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, for a long time, considered the need for vocational training in schools but the craze for university degrees has led to loss of good workmen in professions such as carpentry, welding, etc., and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider steps to improve the quality of Indian goods, equal to or better than those of foreign countries, through a programme of training to produce highly trained vocational workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) The need for diversifying secondary education by introducing knowledge and skills that may prepare students for remunerative work without the necessary of having to go for higher education was emphasised by various experts and Education Commissions constituted by Government after independence. Keeping the above emphasis in view, vocational education was introduced at the secondary level as early as 1976-77. The National Policy on Education, 1986 accorded high priority to the Vocational Education Programme. Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in 1988. The objectives of the Scheme in essence are:—

(i) to provide diversification of educational opportunities so as to enhance individual employability;

(ii) to reduce mis-match between demand and supply of skilled manpower;

(iii) to provide an alternative to those pursuing higher education.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is extended to the States/UTs for implementation of vocational education programme at + 2 level. The Scheme also provides for financing innovative vocational programmes of shorter duration by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The revision of vocational curriculum and instructional material to suit the requirements of the industry is being made from time to time. Linkages between schools and the industry are also being strengthened. Apprenticeship scheme has been extended to vocational pass-outs to strengthen the skills developed and to provide on the job experience. During the training, a stipend of Rs. 900/- per month is paid for a period of one year to the trainees. Steps are being taken to improve the quality and popularise the Vocational Education Programme amongst students, parents and public at large.

Incident in working Women Hostel in New Delhi

4355. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindu on February 28, 2000 about the incident of throwing out Dr. Archana Saxena, author of nearly a dozen books for children, from the hostel for Working Women on Bhagwan Das Road in New Delhi, on the road; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard when a hapless woman has been virtually on the roads for more than a week now and desperately seeking justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was enquired into by the Delhi Government who found that Dr. Archana Saxena was discharged from the hostel for working women, Bhagwan Das Road because she was not working anywhere and her period of allotment was over.